



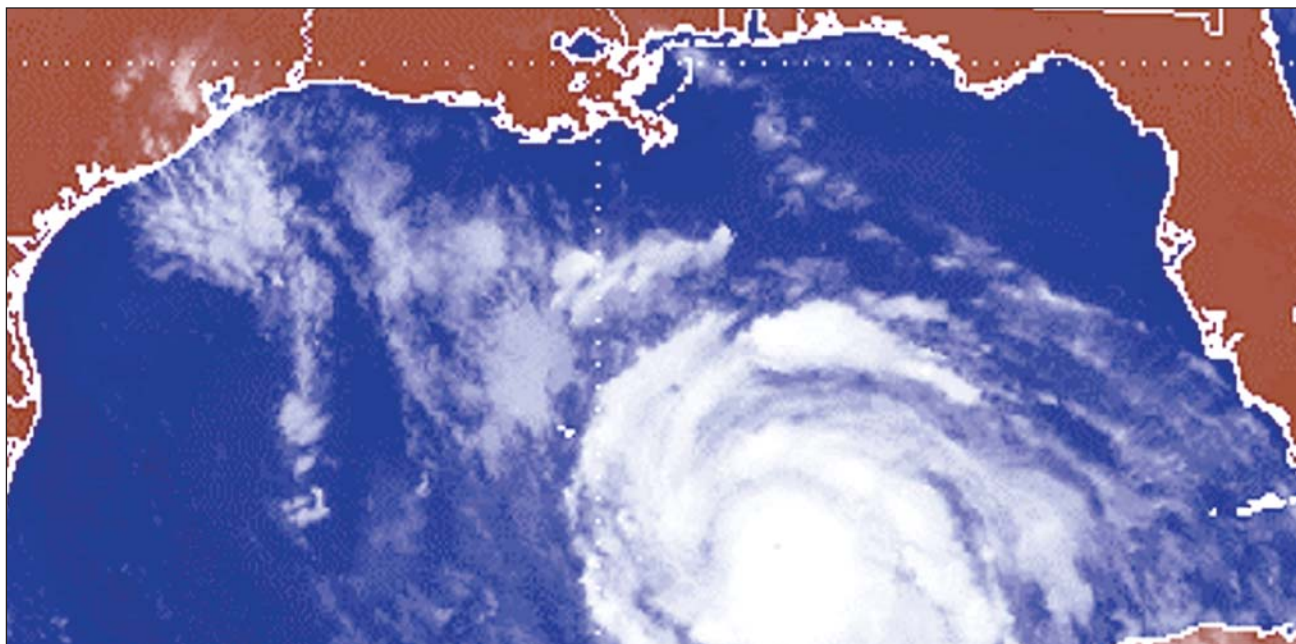
COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 52, Issue 20

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

May 21, 2004



Courtesy of 16th Operations Support Squadron

This satellite photo shows Hurricane Lili in the Gulf of Mexico in 2002. Lili swept through the gulf during hurricane season, which is slated from June through November of each year.

Run from the water, hide from the wind; Base members prepare for hurricane season

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

In preparation for the 2004 Hurricane season, members of the 16th Special Operations Wing participated in a HUREX May 10-12.

The three-day exercise helped posture the base in the likely event of an actual hurricane threatening the Emerald Coast during hurricane season, which is June through November each year.

Under the watchful eyes of the 16th SOW Inspector General Col. Stephan Laushine and the Hurlburt Exercise Evaluation Team, members of the survival recovery center took action to ensure the base was prepared for the different hurricane conditions.

Led by Col. "Griff" Griffin, 16th Mission Support Group commander, SRC members used *Hurlburt Full*

Spectrum Threat Response Plan 10-2 as well as checklists, regulations and all available resources to provide wing leadership with the best possible courses of action.

Upon each significant storm movement the 16th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight provided up-to-date weather information to assist senior leaders in making decisions affecting the safety of personnel and equipment. Although the hurricane wasn't real, all actions were carried out as if the hurricane was expected to hit Hurlburt Field.

The base chapel, which is a designated shelter, was fitted with shutters on the windows and doors as a heightened level of protection as the storm approached. The battlestaff directed the simulated evacuation of aircraft as the winds increased and the

See **HURRICANE**, Page 5

Charity brings Airman through Hurlburt Field

By Airman 1st Class Brian Stives
436th AW Public Affairs

A C-5 Galaxy loadmaster from Dover Air Force Base, Del., who's raising money for charitable organizations by biking more than 2,000 miles, passed through Hurlburt Field on his way to Houston, Texas, May 13.

"So far, I've been chased by a couple of dogs, I've had to ride in the rain a couple of times, it's been great," said Senior Airman James Sargent IV. "I'm in the 14th day of my trip and I've been having fun riding around meeting interesting people."

When trying to think of something to give his grandparents as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in August, Airman Sargent thought of something they've done all their lives and that he knew was close to their hearts --helping other people.

His grandmother, Pat Clark, is a cancer survivor, and his grandfather, Bob Clark, has diabetes, so he decided to make donations to the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association and Shriners Hospitals for Children in their names as surprise gifts.

The Airman decided a road trip would be a great way to raise funds for his grandparents' anniversary gift. With the help of his supervisors in the 436th Airlift Wing, Airman Sargent was able to get three weeks of leave for the trip, which began at Dover Air Force Base, April 30.

He was expected to arrive in

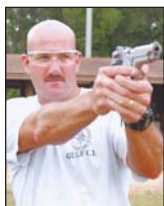
See **BIKING**, Page 5

Motorcycle rally

Safety briefing

All motorcycle riders are invited to a safety briefing today at 10:30 a.m. at the new motorcycle training pad in the Permanent Exercise Facility. A motorcycle rally will follow to kick off the 101 Critical Days of Summer Campaign.

Feature



Top cops

Hurlburt hosts national police competition

Page 14

Sports



Heads up

AFSOC edges by 16th CES 3-2 in intramural soccer

Page 17

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – isolated showers, High 85 Low 67

Saturday – partly cloudy, High 85 Low 67

Sunday –partly cloudy, High 86 Low 68

www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day



Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the

COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. O.G. Mannon

Summer critical period for mishaps

By Lt. Gen. Paul Hester
AFSOC Commander

The "101 Critical Days of Summer Safety," the period from Memorial Day to Labor Day, is rapidly approaching. While this is our traditional vacation period, it is also the most critical period for mishaps—specifically traffic mishaps. Traffic mishaps continue to be our greatest risk factor, because too often they result in injuries, or loss of life. I have said many times, the loss of even one member of the AFSOC family impacts our world-class organization. When that loss is preventable, it is a genuine tragedy.

Many of you will be traveling significant distances on the highways to spend time with your family and friends during this summer period. Before your departure,



Lt. Gen. Paul Hester

please ensure you are following smart safety practices including: planning your driving routes, not over extending yourself, and conducting a personal risk assessment to ensure you have considered all the potential risk such as unfamiliar roads, adverse weather conditions, and travel delays.

Additionally, we all must be actively involved in preventing drinking and driving, ensuring seat belts and protective equipment are always worn, and complying with posted speed limits.

This year comes with a new challenge—to reduce mishaps within our command and the Air Force by 50 percent.

Unfortunately, we have already sustained two traffic fatalities, and remain at the same level as we were at this time last year.

If we are to achieve this reduction goal, it will take leadership, individual responsibility, and appropriate risk management decisions within our daily activities.

I want to emphasize to each individual that you are a critical part of our war fighting capability.

A lost duty time injury impacts our ability to accomplish our AFSOC mission. I want you to enjoy your time off, but realize your actions, coupled with looking out for each other, are the key to a mishap free "101 Critical Days of Summer Safety."

Critical days approaching, step into summer safely

By Col. O.G. Mannon
16th SOW Commander

The 101 Critical Days of Summer are rapidly approaching.

Traditionally the most dangerous time of the year for service members, the 101 Critical Days begin Memorial Day and conclude Labor Day weekend.

It's a fact that several Air Force members will tragically lose their lives in some type of off-duty related mishap during this period. Mishap analysis has shown most of these incidents could have been preventable if the individuals involved had used risk management techniques to minimize or eliminate the dangers they faced.

During the 101 Critical Days of Summer, utilize risk management in everything you do. The same risk

management tools you use on-duty will minimize the risk when applied to your off-duty activities. Prepare yourself mentally and physically for the task at hand. For example, always wear your seatbelt when in a motor vehicle.

If traveling, get adequate rest before starting on that long trip to your favorite vacation spot – and take frequent rest breaks en route. When riding a motorcycle, use the proper personal protective equipment. Know your limitations...don't take unnecessary chances...trust your instincts. If it looks unsafe and sounds unsafe, chances are, it probably is.

One of our biggest challenges since November 2003 has been reducing the number of service members driving under the influence. Actual tracking of the number

of days without DUIs began in January. Our Quiet Professionals embraced the challenge, and delivered 120 out of 133 days DUI free since that time. Each of you should be proud of this extremely significant accomplishment! I ask you to remain even more vigilant during the 101 Critical Days and continue this exceptional trend by actively maintaining a safety net of care for your teammates.

As we approach this traditional period of travel, water sports, and other outdoor activities, enjoy your time off but employ proper risk management techniques to keep you and your families safe.

Remember, people are our most valuable resource and each of you is a vital component in our successful efforts in the Global War on Terrorism. STAY SAFE!

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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday, the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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DUI Tracker

May 14- May 20: 1 DUI

This year: 21

DUIs for 2003: 54

Last DUI: 16th Equipment

Maintenance Squadron

Airmen Against Drunk Driving

Don't Drink and Drive. Call 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 354

16th OG95	16th MSG91
16th MXG4	16th MDG95

As of Feb. 15, individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of May 20.

Congratulations to the 16th MDG, 16th MSG, 16th OG and 16th SOW staff agencies for more than 60 days without receiving a DUI.



If you'd like to submit an item to the Commando newspaper, send it to commando@hurlburt.af.mil. Submission deadline is Wednesday at 4 p.m. the week before you'd like the information to be published.

Sharp shooter

Tech. Sgt. Brian Gilliland, 16th Security Forces Squadron, recently returned from England where he represented the Air Force in the Atlantic Challenge match against the Royal Air Force Regiment. Sergeant Gilliland earned first place in the Match 8 phase team competition, took second place as an AF shooter and garnered fourth place overall.

Photo by Master Sgt. Carlos Rivera

Spotlight on...

Joseph Foster

Rank/Duty Title: GS-05

Education Technician

Organization: 16th Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Jacksonville, Fla.

Hobbies: Fishing and mystery novels

Contribution to the mission:

Mr. Foster receives laudatory compliments daily for his outstanding customer service at a very busy front counter.

Approximately 100 customers are assisted each day at the education office and he's always willing to help.

Mr. Foster was instrumental in issuing \$1.4 million dollars in tuition assistance to active-duty military students who are pursuing undergraduate, graduate, technical and occupational degrees.

He's described by his supervisor as exceptional in organizing and maintaining key areas in the education training office and working with the military personnel flight in the military records section as needed.

Mr. Foster reaches more than 100 military members each month through educational briefings.

He's a team player and an asset to a changing and challenging work environment.

(Editor's Note: The Commando highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

505th Command and Control Wing pilot earns prestigious valor award

By Capt. Danny Cooper
505th Command and Control Wing

A pilot from the 505th Command and Control Wing was awarded one of the highest special awards in the military May 8 at Ft. Hamilton in New York City.

Lt. Col. Edward "Ned" Linch III, now the chief of plans for the wing, received the U.S. Air Force Aviator's Valor Award from the American Legion Aviator's Post 743 for his actions during an Operation Iraqi Freedom mission March 30, 2003.

On that night, then Major Linch, flying an F-16 while deployed with the Alabama Air National Guard to the 160th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron of the 410th Expeditionary Wing, took off leading his wingman Capt. Brian Wolf on a mission planned for SCUD missile hunting in Western Iraq.

Nearing the end of a six-hour mission, Colonel Linch's flight was diverted more than 120 miles from his SCUD hunting area to an area 400 miles deep inside enemy territory to assist troops possibly needing air cover. En-route he began hearing frantic radio calls on the "guard" radio frequency reserved for emergencies.

"One guy was going hysterical," said Colonel Linch. "These were the most desperate and urgent radio calls I've ever heard. The calls were difficult to understand at times since they were in such dire straits under fire."

On the ground, a numerically superior Iraqi force, estimated at 20 to 1, was surrounding a group of coalition Special Operations Forces. The Iraqis

were only about 300 meters from the friendly forces and closing.

According to Colonel Linch, the frantic voice of one of the Special Operators created a "calling" to press the limits.

"We disregarded concern for ourselves and pressed beyond the limits of our jets, its equipment and our personal limitations," he said.

Since this battle was well outside of their planned SCUD hunting area, Colonel Linch and Captain Wolf had little awareness of the environment below them. The flight had no information on the terrain, the lines of communication or threats in the area.

Additionally, the pilots were wearing night-vision goggles, but they barely had sufficient illumination for them to work due to the remnants of a massive sandstorm in the area the day before.

Despite the extreme risk to himself and his flight, Colonel Linch descended through the hazardous conditions to provide immediate air support for the trapped team.

"We had to act now or these guys were going to die," said Colonel Linch. "I knew we were their only hope at the time to survive; I was going to try to help them regardless of the conditions or the safety of my flight."

With only an infrared strobe from the ground troops, kept intermittent at best due to the weather, for situational awareness, Colonel Linch orchestrated several reconnaissance passes and bomb runs over the position to aid the endangered coalition troops.

Although not properly equipped for this type of mission, Colonel Linch was able to direct Captain Wolf to drop one 500-pound bomb.

But, the enemy force didn't quit.

Fearing the potential for friendly casualties, Colonel Linch and Captain Wolf abandoned attempts to drop any more bombs. Instead they continued to make passes through the weather and blacked-out conditions to distract, harass and hopefully deter the enemy force.

"It's one of the worst weather situations I've ever flown in," said Colonel Linch, who has 16 years and more than 3,000 hours of fighter experience. "With poor visibility due to the dust and haze, it is difficult to differentiate the ground from the clouds, you're basically flying around in a 'milk bowl.' The NVG picture looks like snow on a TV, it's just all shades of green."

"With no moon and stars to provide illumination for my NVGs and no horizon to reference, it was almost impossible to visually fly the aircraft without referencing the instruments but I had many of my cockpit lights turned off and a few set to a very dim

Lt. Col.

Edward Linch III

See **AWARD**, Page 11

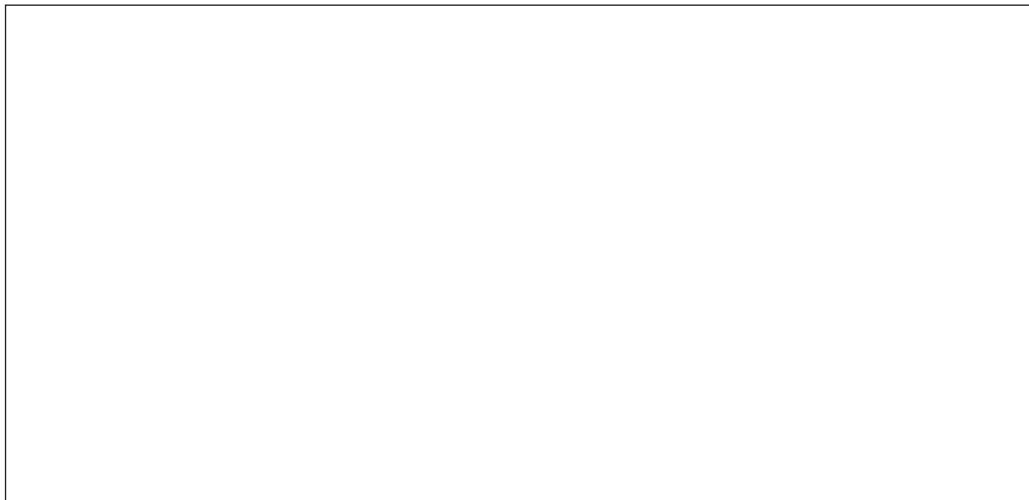


Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberley Gilligan

Distinguished guest

Retired Col. Roland Guidry passes through the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard cordon at the Air Commando Dining Out May 8. More than 900 guests attended the event at the Emerald Coast Conference Center, which honored the 24th anniversary of Desert One and its heroes.

Blood donors necessary in war, peace

By Senior Airman Stacia Zachary
100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England — It may seem like blood centers are always asking for more. The fact is, there's a constant need for blood. Technological advances have a lot to do with this continuous need for blood, said Capt. Christine Murphy, the 48th Medical Group executive officer here.

More and more, there have been scientific breakthroughs that allow a person a chance at life where once there was none. Along with these breakthroughs, a steady supply of blood is needed.

"Our job as a medical community is to save as many lives as we can," Captain Murphy said. "Technology has grown so we're now able to help people in ways not possible in the past."

According to the Armed Services Blood Program Web site, trauma victims may use up to 40 units of blood, and that doesn't include the number of surgical procedures

that require blood transfusions.

"It's always important we have enough (blood) on hand," said 1st Lt. Adam Minnich of the 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron and a blood drive advocate.

In the current world climate, there are many ongoing operations in hostile environments that require blood donations, Captain Murphy said.

"We still have several operations our military is involved in, and it's important to keep those blood stores well stocked," she said. "We're usually at full capacity, but it's always smart to never let them deplete or we would end up in a critical situation."

Although war, and the casualties that result from it, are the most high-profile reasons to give blood, there are several closer-to-home reasons people may need blood.

"We need to take care of our families and civilians," Captain Murphy said. "They're our obligation as well as a large contributor to our blood stores. Remember, blood is always needed in both war and peace."

(AFPN)

Vanpool aims to reduce traffic, provide commuters an alternative

Commuting can be a real hassle. Racing out the door in the morning. Fighting with traffic, relying on the radio for companionship and paying sky-high prices for gas. Then when you finally get to work, you feel the effects of a stressful, unproductive and costly commute.

In an effort to reduce the number of vehicles commuting to and from Hurlburt Field, the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron has teamed up with the West Florida Regional Planning Council and VPSI Commuter Vanpools through the Metropolitan Commuter Assistance Program to offer vanpool opportunities to all personnel, military and civilian, working on Hurlburt Field.

The program works by teaming up commuters who reside in the same vicinity and providing them the opportunity to rent a van to commute back and forth to work. The DoD Transportation Incentive Program provides vouchers to each TIP eligible person who rides in the vanpool at \$100 per month, which could feasibly cover the rental cost with a full vanpool.

So, it's like getting a free van to use to drive back and forth to work.

VPSI's fleet of commuter vans is made up of seven-passenger Ford Windstars, and the eight, nine, 12 and 15 passenger Ford Econoline Wagons.

The vans are insured by VPSI with full coverage Florida automobile liability insurance and a scheduled preventative maintenance and repairs program.

Each van will be assigned to a primary driver who is allowed some personal use of the van during off-duty hours for volunteering his or her time to pick up fellow workers, and maintain the van and records. In addition to the primary driver, there can be alternate drivers assigned within the vanpool who can assume the role of the primary driver during his or her absence.

Participating in the vanpool has the additional attraction of savings on fuel and maintenance on personal vehicles. By leaving your car at home, you will reduce its wear and tear and free it up for other purposes.

There is no long-term commitment to the vanpool. The services are provided on a month-to-month contract. The vanpooling group shares the monthly cost of the van and fuel. The cost per person depends on the type of van selected and the group's total commute expenses.

An informational meeting with representatives from VPSI and the West Florida Regional Planning Council will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. and from noon to 2 p.m., June 2 at The Soundside in the Arnold Room. Vanpool rider applications, start-up packets and TIP vanpool applications will be available. (Information compiled by Capt. Darrien Demps, AFSOC)

News Briefs



AF News

New policy

The Department of Defense Task Force on

Care for Victims of Sexual Assaults released its review of policy, programs and effectiveness, to provide the best possible care to sexual assault victims. The task force:

- Analyzed sexual assault incidence and data
- Assessed current military policies and programs
- Performed literature reviews

■ Visited 21 military locations in the U.S. and abroad

The report lists 35 findings including indications that DoD policies focus on harassment, not assault; commanders lack guidance, resources and emphasis on prevention and response; and efforts to hold offenders accountable aren't apparent because of privacy act concerns.

Recommendations fall into three categories: immediate, near-term and longer-term.

Immediate actions include:

- Establishing a single point of accountability for addressing sexual

assault matters

■ Developing courses of action on unresolved issues

MyPay PIN

Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced May 12 that Airmen can receive personal identification numbers for myPay through their official Air Force e-mail accounts.

Airmen can expect to receive a new or updated PIN within two hours of requesting it on the myPay Web site.

The e-mail PIN delivery process is

a simpler, faster alternative to the direct mail and in-person request methods previously available, DFAS officials said.

Customers can view, print and save leave and earnings statements, make adjustments to federal and state tax withholdings, update bank account and electronic transfers and change address information, all available online at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

The Web site is available to all service members, military retirees and annuitants, and Departments of Defense and Energy civilians.

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Photo by 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson

Senior Airman James Sargent pedals through Hurlburt Field on his way to Houston, Texas, from Dover Air Force Base, Del. Airman Sargent conducted the 2,000 mile trip as a gift to his grandparents, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in August. The money he raised will be donated to charity.

CHARITY, Continued from Page 1

Houston, Texas, Thursday.

"We normally only allow two weeks off for leave," said Staff Sgt. Jim Callari, a 436th AW loadmaster instructor and Airman Sargent's supervisor. "But, after checking the leave log and making sure his leave wouldn't conflict with (other people in the shop), we decided to give him the time off. This is for a worthwhile cause and he had the time available."

Knowing he had the time off to complete the journey, Airman Sergeant began the process of raising the \$5,000 donation.

"I'm currently taking donations from anyone willing to help me out with this," he said. "The contribution started out with just my grandparents names on the donation, but anyone who helps will get their name included. I've had people sponsor me and pay me per mile I ride or just give a straight donation."

Meanwhile, the biker's road trip is slowly making its way through Department of Defense installations.

"I've stopped at Charleston, Norfolk and

Fort Stewart," said Airman Sargent. "I try to find bases, national parks and campgrounds to stay at."

No matter how the money is raised, Airman Sargent said he simply wants to give his grandparents an anniversary gift they'll never forget. All the money he raises with the bike ride will go toward the donation; he is paying his own expenses for the trip.

"Last night I slept in the Hurlburt Field Fam Camp I've been sleeping outside, under the stars, and even at friends' houses if I can," said Airman Sargent. "I just want to let everyone know, that if they want to donate I am not gaining anything from it. It will just be used to make that donation pot larger than I could ever do by myself."

While training for his trek across the country, Airman Sargent rode his bike nearly 40 miles, three or four times a week. Even when he was scheduled to fly missions, he took his bike along to continue his training.

"I try to average 80 miles a day on the trip," he said, "so today I'm going to try to make it to the Mississippi border."

For more information or to make donations, log on to www.de2tx.com.

HURRICANE, Continued from Page 1

hurricane came closer to landfall. Also, the simulation of relocating people from the Soundside to the main base into a shelter became mandatory as hurricane conditions worsened.

"This is the best time to prepare for a hurricane, before it actually arrives," Colonel Laushine said. "If mistakes are going to be made, these exercises are the time to make them and learn from them. So, if and when the real thing ever happens, we'll be ready."

Overall, the wing did very well, said

Master Sgt. Dennis Craig, 16th SOW IG superintendent.

"I'm impressed with some of the things that were done during the exercise," Sergeant Craig said. "The decisions and thinking process were right along the lines of what we had in mind for these scenarios. But, as always there are lessons to be learned."

The next HUREX is scheduled for August. For hurricane safety tips, shelter information, and important phones numbers, visit the family support center in building 90213.

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American Red Cross urges families to prepare for disaster

With the kickoff of the Together We Prepare campaign in Northwest Florida, the American Red Cross of Northwest Florida joins more than 1,000 American Red Cross chapters, Blood Services regions and Armed Forces Emergency Services stations nationwide in working to make the United States safer from disaster. The Northwest Florida Red Cross is encouraging everyone to join a grassroots effort to make sure Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton counties are better prepared should disaster strike by doing five simple things: make a plan, build a kit, get trained, volunteer and give blood.

“With the possibility of war, terrorist attacks, natural disasters and everyday emergencies, being prepared can help save lives,” said Greg Strader, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross of Northwest Florida. “These five actions of the campaign will help the residents make their homes, schools, workplaces and communities safer.”

From a local house fire to a major regional hurricane, the American Red Cross has been helping people prepare for and respond to disasters for more than 100 years. Governed by volunteers and supported by community donations, the American Red Cross is dedicated to saving lives and helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Through its 1.2 million volunteers and 30,000 employees, the Red Cross annually mobilizes relief to families affected by more than 67,000 disasters, trains almost 12 million people in lifesaving skills and exchanges more than 1 million emergency messages between U.S. military service personnel and their families. The Red Cross is the largest supplier of blood and blood products to more than 3,000 hospitals across the nation and also assists victims of international disasters and conflicts at locations worldwide.”

The Red Cross is in nearly every community across the country” said Mr. Strader, “so we are well positioned to organize preparedness activities.”

Every individual has the opportunity to play an important role, when we come together, we become something bigger than us all.

For more information on Together We Prepare, including how to make a plan, build a kit, get trained, volunteer and give blood, call the American Red Cross of Northwest Florida at 432-7601 or visit www.northwestflorida.redcross.org.

Health tips: *Heat stress*

Protection from the potential harmful effects of the heat and the sun is an important consideration when working or playing outside this summer.

Sunburns and long-term skin damage from ultraviolet rays can be avoided by limiting exposure to direct sunlight, especially around midday. People should use a sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least SPF-15. Wearing a hat and sunglasses or using an umbrella provides additional protection from the sun.

Dehydration and heat stress can be avoided by drinking ½ quart of water per hour during physical activity in hot environments. Drink water before going out in the heat and two hours afterwards. Initial symptoms of heat stress/dehydration are dizziness, headache, dry mouth, weakness and muscle cramps. If people experience any of these symptoms, move to a cool area and rest and take frequent sips of water. Heat stress can progress to heat exhaustion or heat stroke and require a trip to the emergency room.

Heat stress and heat exhaustion may also be life threatening.

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New TRICARE contract simplifies claims processing

Courtesy of 16th Medical Group

All beneficiaries who're eligible for TRICARE For Life, including those under age 65 and dual-eligible for TRICARE and Medicare, will soon receive a letter from Wisconsin Physicians Service, the new TRICARE For Life claims processor. As of April 1, WPS was phased in as the new centralized claims processor for all TRICARE regions and the approximately 1.7 million TRICARE For Life beneficiaries in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the American Samoan Islands and the North Mariana Islands.

The introductory letter contains contact information and frequently asked questions on TRICARE For Life, WPS and the automated claims processing system that services all TRICARE For Life beneficiaries.

The new contract integrates the services previously provided by each of the regional managed care support contractors, providing a single source for claims processing, customer service and administrative claims services.

The WPS TRICARE For Life contract is part of the Department of Defense's next generation of contracts and is designed to optimize the delivery of claims and associated customer services.

"The new single claims processing vehicle will deliver customer-friendly service and improve beneficiaries' satisfaction," said Rear Admiral Richard Mayo, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity. "We will employ commercial best practices and an effective management approach to provide the necessary services through this world-class claims processing system."

TFL claims processing is currently in a state of transition. The outgoing regional claims processor will continue to process claims for services beneficiaries receive until WPS TFL is implemented in the beneficiary's state. For information about current claims processors and to find out what region a beneficiary is in, see www.tricare.osd.mil/main/chart.html.

Because the Medicare program is administered on a state-by-state basis, WPS TFL will be implemented by state. In cases when parts of a state are included under two separate regions, WPS TFL will be implemented when the largest part of a state is scheduled to be implemented. For example, Idaho falls under Region 7/8 and Northern Idaho falls under Region 11; all of Idaho will be phased in with Region 7/8 (Central). A complete list of states' phase in dates will soon be available on www.tricare.osd.mil.

Beneficiaries who are under age 65 and are eligible for both Medicare and TRICARE due to disability or end-stage renal disease will no longer need to directly file claims to a managed care support contractor. All claims filed with Medicare for these dual-eligible beneficiaries will go to WPS TFL. WPS has agreements with each Medicare carrier allowing Medicare to directly submit claims to WPS TFL once implemented in the state. If the provider currently submits claims electronically on the beneficiary's behalf to Medicare, Medicare will now submit this claim directly to WPS TFL. Beneficiaries will receive an explanation of benefits from WPS TFL once processing has been completed.

Once implemented in a region, beneficiaries may call WPS TFL, (866) 773-0404 or TDD (866) 773-0405 for information and/or claims processing assistance. Beneficiaries may also access TRICARE For Life information on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl and on the WPS Web site at www.tricare4u.com.

Beneficiaries may also seek assistance at the 16th Medical Group Health Benefits Office, 881-5177 or 881-3912.

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Express Scripts is the New Retail Pharmacy Administrator

Courtesy of 16th Medical Group

Express Scripts of Maryland Heights, Mo., has been awarded the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy contract, which takes effect June 1.

The new retail pharmacy program will be fully portable, allowing beneficiaries access to network pharmacies while traveling outside of their regions. Retail pharmacies comprise one of three venues through which pharmacy services are available. TRICARE beneficiaries may also obtain prescription medications from their military treatment facility pharmacies and the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy, which Express Scripts also administers.

One of the largest pharmacy benefit management companies in North America, Express Scripts, Inc. is well qualified to administer the retail pharmacy benefit for TRICARE beneficiaries. The company currently provides PBM services to more than 50 million members through facilities in

eight states and Canada. Express Scripts serves thousands of client groups, including managed care organizations, insurance carriers, third-party administrators, employers and union-sponsored benefit plans.

Express Scripts informed TRICARE beneficiaries about network coverage and procedures for filling prescriptions at their neighborhood pharmacies in a mailing that went out at the end of April. That mailing included a copy of the new TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Benefit Guide.

You can learn more about Express Scripts and the retail pharmacy contract on the Express Scripts Web site www.express-scripts.com. The new retail network will be closely monitored to ensure patient safety and provide continuity of services.

For questions or more information on TRICARE contracts, interested parties may visit the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/. For other information, call the Hurlburt Field TRICARE Health Benefits Office at 881-5177.



The 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs office is always looking for unique or interesting stories for the Commando newspaper. If you're a writer and would like to submit something to the Commando, e-mail it to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

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AWARD, Continued from Page 3

setting in order to assist me in finding their IR strobe. I had to rely on my wingman to call out critical information such as my altitude."

At one point, both pilots dispensed flares, again hoping to distract the enemy. Using the flares is a dangerous proposition because the flares not only highlight their position, but also wash out what little vision they had through their goggles in the process.

"We were flying around in conditions unsuitable for this, and we both kept getting spatially disoriented," said Colonel Linch of the dangerous condition pilots experience when they don't have sufficient references to maintain proper control of the airplane.

The fight went on for almost half an hour with both pilots repeatedly foregoing personal safety by descending below specified altitudes despite almost zero visibility.

Eventually, the coalition forces were able to break through the line of enemy troops and proceed to a safer position.

"The combination of the bomb, the flares and the noise allowed the troops to get on the run and escape the situation," said Colonel Linch.

The following day, Colonel Linch and Captain Wolf learned the entire group of friendly forces was rescued and all were alive after a major combat rescue effort.

On July 13, 2003, after returning from his tour, Colonel Linch was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism by the Governor of Alabama, Bob Riley for his actions during the fight.

"I give a lot of credit to my wingman, Captain Wolf, for his efforts that night and to God for protecting everyone in a situation that could have claimed many lives," said Colonel Linch.

Colonel Linch returned to active duty with the 505th CCW in September 2003 where he was largely responsible for the recent transformation from a single group to a wing.

The Valor Award is presented annually by the American Legion Aviator's Post 743, the only post exclusively for rated flyers with combat experience, to recognize a military aviator from each service that has performed a "conspicuous act of valor or courage during aerial flight" in the preceding year as approved by their service's chief of staff. Previous winners from the Air Force include Gen. Hap Arnold and Maj. Chuck Yeager.



Watch for our children



Dress and appearance

Badges and Insignia:

■Aeronautical and chaplain badges are mandatory. Others are optional. Center subdued embroidered badge 1/2 inch above AIR FORCE tape.

■Center additional badge 1/2 inch above the first badge.

■A third badge (miscellaneous) may be worn on lower portion of left pocket between left and right edges and bottom of flap and bottom of pocket.

■Center AIR FORCE tape immediately above left breast pocket. Center name tape immediately above right breast pocket.

■Cut off or fold tapes to match pocket width. Maternity: Place in same relative position.

■(Commanders' discretion) Center

emblems on lower portion of pocket between left and right edges and bottom of flap and pocket. Maternity: Place in same relative position.

■General officers wear 3/4- or 5/8 inch subdued cloth or subdued metal pin-on grade insignia.

■Officers: center regular size subdued cloth or subdued metal pin-on grade insignia.

■Airmen: center 3-, 3 1/2-, or 4-inch (women) or 4-inch (men) sleeve chevron halfway between shoulder seam and elbow when bent at 90-degree angle. Wear either the current or new style rank insignia.

■NAME/USAF tapes are mandatory.



Rising Sophomore, Operation AF Return

This summer Hurlburt Field will host the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Rising Sophomore program and the Air Force Academy's Operation Air Force program. One hundred cadets from various colleges, universities, and the academy will be here from May 31 through August 6. During their stay, the cadets will get a first-hand look at how the Air Force operates. They'll live and dine on base, and are authorized to use all recreational facilities.

The cadets will visit different squadrons to get some hands-on experience in various career fields and will have the opportunity to perform enlisted and junior officer duties. The program is designed to show the cadets Air Force life early on, and will serve as a great recruiting tool. For more information or to assist with the programs, call 1st Lt. Karen Lewallen at 884-2728 (Rising Sophomore Program) or 1st Lt. Jennifer Reed at 884-3467 (Operation Air Force).

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This week in history

May 17, 1919 - The War Department ordered the use of national star insignia on all planes.

May 19, 1919 - Master Sgt. R.W. Bottriell made the first free back-type parachute jump.

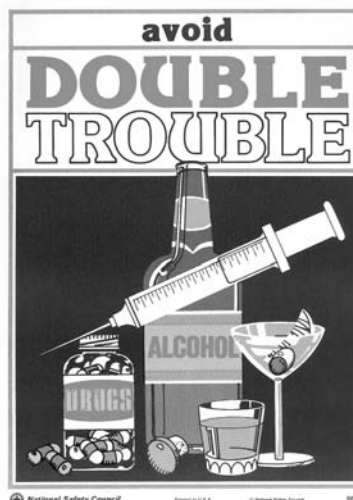
May 22, 1934 - Mackay Trophy awarded to Capt. W.T. Larson for developing instrument takeoff and landing procedures.

May 20, 1951 - Capt. James Jabara becomes the world's first jet ace, shooting down his fifth and sixth MiGs in the Korean War.

May 16, 1955 - U.S. Air Force marking approved for use on aircraft wings.



**BUCKLE UP
FOR SAFETY**



Officers take aim in police competition



Photo by Airman Ali Flisek

A Gulf Correctional Institute officer takes a bead on the target (above). Right, SWAT members enter the “shoot house.” Bottom right, rescuers carry a victim safely ashore as part of the water rescue competition. Below, competitors participate in the pistol/sniper shoot.



Photo by Airman Ali Flisek

By Tech. Sgt. Daniel Oliver
Public Affairs

There was crackling gunfire directed at “bad guys,” night-time assaults and several rescues at Hurlburt Field last week. It was part of the National Police Week competition hosted annually by the 16th Security Forces Squadron.

The event is held to recognize the accomplishments and sacrifices made by law enforcement professionals.

Law enforcement officers from across Northwest Florida and Alabama tested their expertise in firing, water rescue and a Special Weapons Assault Team exercise.

Other categories included building entry, sniper and paint-ball. In build-

ing entry, officers had to clear the building, take down hostile targets while not shooting “friendlies.”

MSgt. Michael Kimzey, 16th SFS, who set-up this event, said this year’s competition was top-notch.

“This was the best performance by officers I’ve seen in terms of skill-level,” Sergeant Kimzey said.

Best overall team went to Gulf Correctional Institute, while Okaloosa Correctional Institute finished second and the Escambia County Sheriff’s Office Team 1, placed third.

Other first-place results were: Team pistol, Escambia County; Building entry, Okalosa C.I.; Water rescue, Apalachee C.I.; Sniper, Okaloosa C.I. Paint ball, Gulf C.I.



Photo by Airman Danielle Morrow

Community

Records audit of personnel

The military personnel flight records section, will be conducting a records audit June 9-11. All Unit Personnel Record Groups must be returned to the records section no later than 1 p.m. on June 8. During the audit the records section will be closed and UPRGs cannot be checked out, copies won't be produced, nor will the UPRGs be available for review.

16th Medical Group

The 16th Medical Group closes May 28 and 31 in observance of Memorial Day. The Eglin Air Force Base emergency room will be open for any emergency needs. Normal clinic operations will resume June 1 at 7 a.m.

Alabama ANG

The 280th Combat Communications Squadron in Dothan, AL, has traditional Air National Guard vacancies in 2E1X1 and 2E2X1. There are great educational benefits available such as the Montgomery GI Bill, MGIB kicker, and Student Loan Repayment Program that repays up to \$20,000 in student loans. For more information call or e-mail Judy Bush at (800) 291-9263, judy.bush@almont.ang.af.mil.

Children's Bible Camp

The Hurlburt Field Protestant Chapel will be having a children's bible camp June 7-11 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. For more information call Danny Sullivan at 884-5487.

MSG dining out

The 16th Mission Support Group is holding a dining out June 5 at 6 p.m. at the Emerald Coast Conference Center. Tickets are on sale now until May 28. Cost is \$15 for Airmen, \$25 for E5-E6, \$35 for E7 and above. For more information, see your squadron representative.

Getaway cruises

Information, Tickets and Travel can help you "getaway" before or during Thanksgiving with two great cruises to the western Caribbean. The pre Thanksgiving cruise sails out of New Orleans for seven days from Nov. 14-21. Rates are \$545 for interior rooms, \$695 for ocean view rooms and \$845 for rooms with a balcony.

The Thanksgiving Cruise sails out of Mobile, Ala., for five days from November 22-27. Rates are \$545 for ocean view rooms and \$510 for interior rooms. All cruise rates are based per person on double occupancy.

Call ITT at 884-7848/5699 or 581-0469 for more information or visit the ITT offices located in the Mini Mall.

Free Envelopes

The United States Postal Service and AAFES have teamed up to provide mailing envelopes to our customers free of charge. The envelopes are designed to ensure customers fill out the address blocks correctly. This will help get mail to OIF/OEF and other military sites faster.

The United States Postal Service is also providing a display to hold and present the envelopes. Envelopes and displays should already be at your stores now.

Dental service

The Eglin Air Force Base Dental Service is currently accepting applications for the American Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant Training program. The training program is six months long and the next class start date is June 4. Pick up an application at the Eglin Dental Clinic or the Hurlburt Field Dental Clinic or call Master Sgt. Mary Lugent for more information at 883-8180.

Change of command

Lt. Col. Frank Fields, 15th Special Operations Squadron, will relinquish his command to Lt. Col. Robert Toth at 9 a.m. June 1 at the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Unit Hanger, the ceremony is open to the base.

Change of Command

Maj. Joseph Rushlau is scheduled to assume command of the 716th Maintenance Squadron from Lt. Col. Douglas Jantzen at the Fuel Cell Hangar, Building 3087, Duke Field, today at 9 a.m. For more information, call Master Sgt. Frank Horne at 883-6112.

Change of command

Col. Michael Chyrek, 16th Medical Operations Squadron, will relinquish his command to Lt. Col. Thomas Roshetko June 3 at 10 a.m. at the Air Park. A reception following the event will be held at the Hurlburt Field Chapel. In case of inclement weather it will move to the 15th Aircraft Mobility Unit Nosedock.

Operation appreciation

Officials at Lowe's Motor Speedway, Charlotte, N.C., are offering service members discounted tickets to two NASCAR events in May through its "Operation Appreciation" initiative. Events include the NASCAR Nextel All-Star Challenge Saturday and the Coca-Cola 600 May 30. The normally \$76 tickets for the challenge are \$20 and the \$101 tickets for the Coca-Cola 600 are \$30.

In addition to the races, the tickets also include access to pre-race entertainment, such as a performance by the band "Live" before the All-Star Challenge. Service members who would like to attend should call (800) 455-3267 and ask the ticket agent about the Operation Appreciation military discount.

Lost debit or credit cards

People who lose their automated teller machine card, debit or credit card shouldn't panic. Federal laws and bank policies limit your liability for unauthorized charges, as long as you quickly notify the bank or card issuer of the loss or theft.

If a credit card is lost or stolen and people act quickly, they won't be out much money. As long as the card issuer is notified within a reasonable time after the loss or theft, usually 30 days, people aren't responsible for any charges made after the notification. For charges made before the notification, people are normally liable for only \$50. However, if the card issuer isn't notified within a reasonable time, people may be responsible for all unauthorized charges made before notification.

With ATM or debit cards people must act even quicker than with credit cards in order to avoid full liability when a card is lost or stolen. Check with individual banks to determine liability. Any questions, call Tom Snyder, 884-6100.

Air Force TV and Radio News



To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com> or www.af.mil/news and click on TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September–May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship)

11:30 a.m. (traditional)

12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August–May
Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

For more information, call 884-7795

At the movies



Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday – (R) The Lady Killers, starring Tom Hanks and Marlon Wayans - Goldthwait organizes a gang of double-crossing thieves to rob a riverboat Casino. They set up shop by renting a room from a little old church-going lady named Mrs. Munson. When she figures out what they're up to, the robbers decide she must be eliminated, only they underestimated her.

Saturday – (PG-13) Jersey Girl, starring Ben Affleck and Liv Tyler - Ollie Trinke was a smooth and successful Manhattan music publicist. But out of a job and luck, he moves back home to New Jersey. While renting his daughter a movie he meets Maya and soon he realizes you must accept who you are and what makes you happy.

Sunday – (PG) The Prince and Me, starring Julia Stiles and Luke Mably - Paige, a college student meets and falls in love with one of her classmates. She doesn't know is that he's actually a Danish prince, Frederick, hiding in America before having to perform his princely duties.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday – (PG-13) The Alamo, starring Dennis Quaid and Billy Bob Thornton - In the spring of 1836 nearly 200 Texans held the fort for thirteen days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men the Texans at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence.

Saturday – (PG) Home on the Range, starring Roseanne Barr and Cuba Gooding Jr. - A young widow is in danger of her farm being foreclosed unless she can come up with \$1,000 for the mortgage. The farm animals hatch their own plan to help. It just so happens, there's a bandit on the loose and the price on the crook's head is a tidy \$1,000. (Also showing at 2 p.m.)

Sunday – (PG-13) The Whole Ten Yards, starring Bruce Willis and Matthew Perry - Thanks to falsified dental records supplied by his former neighbor "Oz" retired hitman Jimmy now spends his days with his wife Jill. Suddenly, Oz shows up on their doorstep, begging them to help him rescue his wife from a Hungarian mob.

Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled dates.)

OWCC enrollment

Twelve-week summer classes begin Tuesday at Okaloosa-Walton Community College. Fast-Track classes, which are six-weeks long, begin Tuesday and June 23. New and returning students may enroll through May 18 at all six OWCC locations from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

The OWCC schedule of classes, including a series of weekend and online courses, is available at the college, area public libraries, and online at www.owcc.edu. For information, call 729-6922 or 892-8100 in Walton County.

Motorcycle safety course

Hurlburt Field now offers the Motorcycle Safety Foundation Beginners Rider course. The two-day class is scheduled for June 15 and 16 and July 13 and 14. Space is limited to six students. This class is intended for riders with less than three months riding experience.

More experienced riders can take the one day Experienced Riders Course. Motorcycle safety training is required for all active-duty military that intend to ride a motorcycle on or off-base.

Training is available to anyone with access to Hurlburt Field. However, active-duty military have priority. For more information and an up-to-date class schedule, call the 16th Special Operations Wing Safety office at 884-2614.

DIFM turn-ins

The 16th Logistic Readiness Squadron Flight Service Center will collect turn-ins from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Due-in-from maintenance turn-ins will not be accepted after 2 p.m. The Flight Service Center will also pick up DIFM assets from shops once a day. If assets are not ready at the time of pickup, they'll be picked up the following day. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Margie Lusher at 884-1198/5887.

Classes

HAWC classes

To reserve a seat in the following health and wellness center classes, call 884-4292. All classes are free of charge and held in Building 90232.

Prenatal Nutrition - Wednesday, 4 p.m.

Healthy Living Workshop - Tuesday, and Thursday; 8:30 a.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program - Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program Follow-up - Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Total Fitness Enhancement - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

Eating Heart Healthy - Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.

Diabetic Nutrition Follow-up - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m.

Lean and Healthy Eating - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

Lean on Me - Thursday, 11 a.m.

Diabetic Nutrition - Thursday, 1 p.m.

FSC classes

For more information on the following family support center classes, call 884-5441.

Single Parents - Tuesday, 12 a.m.

Mapping your Career - Monday, 1 p.m.

Moms, Pops and Tots - Tuesday, Wednesday; 10 a.m.

Smooth Move - Thursday, 9 a.m.

Resume Workshop - Tuesday, 5 p.m.

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AFSOC/MDG comes out on top 3-2 vs. CES

Story and Photos by
Airman James Dickens
Public Affairs

Air Force Special Operations Command/16th Medical Group and the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron went head-to-head Tuesday in intramural soccer at the soccer field behind the Aderholt Fitness Center.

In a battle that came down to the wire, the AFSOC/MDG proved the strongest.

When the game got underway, it was AFSOC/MDG that struck the first blow on a score from Aleksandr Ilin, 16th Logistic Readiness Squadron. But it didn't take CES long to return the favor, which brought the score to a tie at one.

The next time anyone scored was off the foot of Ilin once again. This goal, gave his team a one point lead going into the half. During halftime both coaches had a few things to tell their teams.

"This game isn't over, one goal is nothing for us," said assistant coach Robert Aguirre, 16th CES.

"We need to attack the ball, keep it on the ground and drop back on defense quicker," said Osvaldo Freyre, AFSOC.

Scoring seemed to be choked off in the second half until CES snuck one by AFSOC/MDG's goalie, tying the game.

With the score tied and only a few minutes left in the game, AFSOC/MDG delivered the final blow.

The shot came off the foot of Danny Hidalgo, AFSOC, winning the game 3-2.

The breakdown in defense was a result of miscommunication, said Aguirre.

Luke Croucher, 16th Services Squadron, Ilin and Hidalgo, all played outstanding games, said coach Freyre.

"I would like to give credit to the whole team, because we have a lot of first time players out there that are really coming around for us," said Aguirre.



Luke Croucher (purple), 16th Services Squadron, collides with a CES player while they both go after the ball



A CES player heads the ball after the AFSOC/MDG takes a shot at their goal.



Anthony DeLorenzo, purple, takes a shot at the goal while Ramon Castro, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, number 2, looks on from the side.

Sports shorts

Family golf lessons

The "Hook-A-Family on Golf" Summer Program at Gator Lakes golf course begins June 7 and last until July 25. This fun package deal includes golf lessons for the family followed by a movie, hotdog, beverage and popcorn at 6:30 p.m. Start times for the golf lessons will be 4 p.m. for advanced golfers and 5 p.m. for beginners. The cost is \$150 for one parent and child. Each additional family member is \$50 per person. You can sign-up at the Gator Lakes pro shop. The program is limited to 80 participants. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Call Gator Lakes golf course at 881-2251 for additional information.

Golf tournament

Gator Lakes golf course will host a Memorial Day Golf Tournament May 31. Tee times start at 7 a.m. and the format is two-man best ball. An awards party will follow with hamburgers, hotdogs and other refreshments. It's \$30 for

Hurlburt Field golf course members, \$35 for Eglin golf course members, \$40 for non-members with military/government ID cards, or \$45 for guests. Call Gator Lakes golf course at 881-2251 for registration requirements or more information.

Summer cheerleading clinic

The Summer Cheerleading Clinic starts June 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Youth Center gym for children ages 6 and up. Participants will learn cheer basics, two cheers, one formation and one dance routine. The cost is \$16 per child and includes a t-shirt and certificate. Sign up at the Hurlburt Field Youth Center by June 2. For more information, call Coach Robin Poling at 936-1444 or the youth center at 884-6355.

Golf tournament

Hurlburt Field's Top Three council is sponsoring their annual golf tournament at Gator Lakes

June 18 at 9 a.m. with registration starting at 7:30 a.m. String and mulligan's will also be available for purchase. For more information or to register, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-5787 or Master Sgt. Eric Hanson at 884-4476.

Basketball camp

The 5th Annual Perseverance Basketball Camp will be held July 19-23 from 12 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Eglin Air Force Base Fitness Center. The camp is free and transportation is available. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Ronald Miller at 883-8562.

Officials Needed

Basketball officials are needed for a high-school level officials camp being conducted June 3-5 at the Tate High School in Pensacola.

It's a low cost, positive camp focusing on current officiating philosophies and on-the-floor mechanics. For more information, call Chip Boes at 968-9299 or John Evans at 882-8797.